than six months and more than three months in the Insurance and banking Sectors;

(b) the reasons for delay in filling up of these posts;

(c) whether any directions have been issued for improving the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) The number of top posts lying vacant in Insurance and Banking Sectors are as follows:—

No. of posts of whole time Directors lying vacant in Banking Sector for more than			No. of posts of whole time Directors lying vacant in Insurance Sector for more than		
1 year	6 months	3 months	1 year	6 months	3 months
Nil	3	4	Nil	1	2

Steps were initiated to fill these posts well in advance. However, procedural formalities involved in these appointments have taken relatively more time. Recently, directions have been issued to concerned officers to initiate the process of filling up vacancies 3-4 months in advance to improve the situation.

Review of poverty alleviation strategy

2166. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to review the poverty alleviation strategy and reducing and re-targeting subsidies with a view to cut the overall fiscal deficit substantially; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating reduction and re-adjustments and re-targeting of respective subsidies, indicating phase-wise targets under the new strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Government policies and programmes for poverty alleviation and subsidies are reviewed and monitored continually and appropriate changes are made as and when necessary depending on changing economic environment and overall resources. However, as the following table indicates, there has been significant increase in the budget allocation for food subsidies and overall subsidies in the Central Government Budget for 2002-2003, although there is some reduction of fertilizer subsidies, export/import subsidies and interest subsidies.

Trends of subsidies since 1999-2000

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals 19992000	Actuals 20002001	Revised 2001-2002	Budget 2002-2008
A. Major Subsidies	22678	25871	29556	38923
1. Food	9434	12060	17612	21200
2. Indigenous (Urea) Fertilizer	8670	9480	7370	6499
3. Imported (Urea) Fertilizer	74	12	59	505
4. Sale of decontrolled fertilizer with concession to farmers	4500	4319	4515	4224
5. Petroleum subsidy	—	—	—	6495
B. Other Subsidies	1809	971	967	878
6. Import/Export of sugar, edible oils etc.	50	40	9	—
7. Interest Subsidies	1371	111	210	156
8. Assistance for fertilizer promotion	—	—	—	—
9. Debt. Relief to Farmers	—	—	—	—
10. Other Subsidies	388	820	748	722
Total Subsidies (A+B)	24487	26842	30523	39801